

THE BILTMORE

NEW YORK

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THE
BILTMORE
NEW YORK



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43RD & 44TH STREETS



THE BILTMORE

A LITTLE JOURNEY TO THE BILTMORE

By ELBERT HUBBARD

I 'VE BEEN to a hotel. I thought I had seen hotels before, but now I know I hadn't. The Biltmore, in New York City, is a hotel that is individual, distinct, peculiar, unique and unforgettable. The Biltmore tokens a new time.

The opening of this hotel is an epoch. We are living in a new age, and if you want to realize this just visit this wonderful hostelry.

If you arrive from New England or upon the New York Central lines, the ease with which you can go to The Biltmore will be the first thing that gives you a thrill of delight.

You eliminate cab drivers, taxis, guides, and cross no streets, run into no congestions of traffic.

When you alight from your train at the Grand Central Station, you hand your bag to a Red Cap and say, "The Biltmore."

In about half a second you are deposited in a luxurious elevator, and in half a second more you are in the office of The Biltmore.

If you come to New York by other routes than those named, the location of The Biltmore is so central that you are but a few moments from station or ferry.

The Biltmore is so arranged that there is no congestion or crowding in any of the hallways, elevators, restaurant, palm court, grill rooms, cafés or buffets. Here is revealed the genius of the architects, Warren & Wetmore, who have designed many of the structural wonders of New York, and they have fairly surpassed themselves in The Biltmore.

I was told that there were in the hotel when I was there over three thousand people, but I ran into no crowd.



THE main office
of The Biltmore
is conveniently lo-
cated, and equipped
with every conven-
ience to meet quick-
ly each requirement
of the guest.

The whole place is noise-proof and dust-proof. It is run on rubber tires with ball bearings.

The great room called the restaurant, the gentlemen's café, the grill room and peace-impelling lounge are all outside rooms, where the light from the out-of-doors enters, and this is true of every one of the thousand rooms in the house.

Electricity has never been used so thoroughly as it has in this building, so I am told by one of the great engineers of the world. We speak of a building being wired for electric lights, but here is the only building in the world that is completely wired for service.

There are pneumatic tubes that carry laundry bundles and a vacuum cleaning service that picks up the dust and carries it out.

Every known device for ventilation has been installed by which dust is kept out of the hotel, and a scientist of note tells me that the atmosphere in The Biltmore would show a far greater purity from the microbes of dust and bacteria of disintegration than outside air, even in the country, unless it were immediately after a great fall of snow. Thus it really looks as if when we want to get absolutely sanitary conditions in future, we will have to go to the city and not to the country.

The Biltmore is the last word in hotel creation. It is the last white milestone on the road to progress. It contains every betterment, every improvement, every device for comfort and convenience that any and all the best hotels of America or Europe has, and none of their disadvantages, and it has so many advantages of its own.

In the building of The Biltmore we find the combined genius of the greatest men of the age collaborating, and the net result is a home for the traveler that is the safest, sanest, most complete, convenient and luxurious institution ever thought out by human brains, and constructed with human hands. In its furnishings and decorations it is pleasing to the most highly sensitive and cultivated taste, for all of these things were designed by the master minds in such work, Messrs. W. & J. Sloane, of New York.

All of the water used for bathing purposes is soft water, the water being filtrated by the Permutit system, a wonderful device evolved by German brains. By this system all of the mineral salts that may be in the water are removed, and nothing is added,



THE corridors on the main floor are beautified by rare tapestries, graceful palms, marble panelled side walls, and richly upholstered and handsomely carved furniture.

so we have rain water just as you would catch it in the clouds. The Biltmore is the first hotel in America to adopt this soft-water system.

There are twenty-six stories in The Biltmore Hotel, but there is really no choice in the rooms, so far as altitude is concerned. There are a thousand bedrooms and nine hundred and fifty private baths. No wall-paper of any sort is used. All baseboards are marble, and the elevator shafts are solid stone.

There is a Louis XIV ball and banquet room on the nineteenth floor, seating six hundred people, surrounded with a royal suite of reception and supper rooms. This ball room, with its gallery is a salon befitting a royal palace. In addition to this, there is a smaller banquet and music room on the fourth floor, which would dazzle the eyes of any one unaccustomed to luxurious establishments. The construction of the exterior of the building is such as to permit on the sixth floor a large pergola and out-of-door garden, with walks, flower beds and ornamental shrubs—an ideal spot for summer afternoon teas, amid floral surroundings and far above the strident noises of the city. This, like the banquet hall, is supplied with an independent kitchen—and speaking of kitchens, please note that every one of these indispensable adjuncts to a hotel are above ground in The Biltmore, and not placed in illy-ventilated cellars, as in most hotels.

Nerve irritation is reduced to the minimum at The Biltmore. If you like music at your meals you can go to a dining-room where a Polish professor produces sweet symphonies. If you prefer to eat in silence, you are accommodated. Some philosopher has said that there is a vast difference between eating dinner and dining. So there is. You dine at The Biltmore. The china is unlike the usual hotel ware and more like that which you find on a private table of refinement. The napery and the Gorham silverware, chaste in design and pattern, added to the attention of trained waiters, all tend to enhance your enjoyment of the food, which has been prepared by chefs known on both sides of the Atlantic. The whole building is a place of rest, quiet as the country, beautiful as the Little Trianon at Versailles. Turkish baths, a huge swimming pool, gymnasiums, music rooms, ball rooms, banquet rooms, a dozen private dining rooms—here are accommodations that cater to every exigency and condition of life



THE large Restaurant is entered through the stately Palm Court which offers inviting opportunity for after-dinner coffee and cigars and social intercourse.

Just to show how complete this place is, there is a hospital with an operating room, as perfect as science and invention can make it, to take care of emergency cases. Doctors and nurses are here, people of skill to look after the wants of the guests that may need aid.

The average guest would never know anything about this hospital. You only find it when you require it or search it out. And then there is something more, because a hotel is more than a mass of stone and concrete and a tangle of pipes and wires, and rooms, and dishes, and pictures, and statuary; yes, there is something else, and that is element of human service. We have been told that corporations have no souls, but a thing that hasn't a soul is dead. At The Biltmore there is a healthful, friendly atmosphere, a gentleness, a kindness, a courtesy and a high intelligence that never obtrudes, but which is always right there when you need it. And this friendliness and devotion to human needs is a quality that you cannot omit. The Biltmore, like paradise, is a condition of mind. Also, it is an environment.

Some people may imagine that the prices at The Biltmore are of a kind that can only be met by royalty. This is a mistake; the prices—why, they are just what you have been paying elsewhere, when you flattered yourself you were putting up first class.

Any one who does not know The Biltmore Hotel is lagging behind in life's procession. It is a part of the education of every man and woman to know what the big men of the world are doing, and what civilization is supplying. Only thus are we able to know in what direction we are traveling and how fast we are moving. And so my advice to every citizen of America, or of Europe as well, is, when you are in New York, do not fail to see The Biltmore Hotel. It is a place of safety, sanity, sanitation, health and luxury, where use and beauty blend, and the ideal place for temporary or permanent abode. Here courtesy, kindness, friendship and goodwill smile you a welcome. You will be glad when you arrive at The Biltmore; you will be sorry when you have to go; and you will look forward with fond anticipation to a return visit.



THE Salon known as the Restaurant seats more than three hundred people. Its marble walls and exquisite hangings make it one of the notable rooms of America.



THE Cafe is finished in smoked oak, with raftered ceilings and rich hangings. It has proved one of the most popular rooms in the Biltmore.



THE Grill Room
is popular for
luncheon and in-
formal dinner parties.
It has its own orch-
estra and the spirit
of good cheer per-
vades every nook
and corner



THE Lounge adjoining the Grill room with its big comfort-inviting leather chairs and library tables affords the guest all the requisites of a metropolitan club.



THE Louis XIV
Ball Room and
Banquet Hall, with
its liberal propor-
tions, its gilded walls
and exquisite draper-
ies, forms a royal
setting for social
gatherings.



THE large Italian Reception Hall adjacent to the Louis XIV Ball Room, has massive marble columns, heavy carved ceiling and rich hangings.



THE Music Room
on the fourth
floor is admirably
arranged with its
connecting reception
and supper rooms
for private functions
and thés dansants.



THERE are several private dining rooms in The Biltmore suitable for informal dinners, or dinner dances. Each has full kitchen and service conveniences.



THE construction of The Biltmore is such as to allow on the roof of the sixth floor a formal garden with fountains, growing flowers, gravel walks, etc.



THE Pergola adjoining the formal garden on the sixth floor and far above the city's streets will afford a delightful place for afternoon tea in summer.



THE private suites
in The Biltmore
are particularly well
adapted for those
who wish to make
the hotel their per-
manent homes free
from the burden of
housekeeping.



EVERY attention has been given in the furnishing and equipment of the Bed Chambers with the view of making them artistically home-like and attractive.



UPON the walls of the main corridors are many original old tapestries of great value, which give an artistic touch to the interior.



THERE are several entrances to The Biltmore, each one of which gives attractive views of the interior and permits ingress and exit at convenient points.



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